



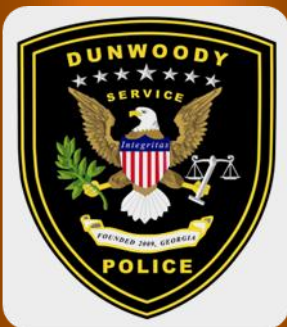
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Trick or Treat Safety

Officer W. Furman



October symbolizes the beginning of fall for a lot of us. We see the changing of the leaves, the cooler weather, approaching holidays and Trick or Treating! Below are a few safety tips when you are out gathering the candy on Halloween night:

□ **Have each child carry or wear something lit**, such as a flashlight, glow bracelet or necklace, or flashing attire for visibility. Light-up shoes are also practical, and ever-so-noticeable on a dark Halloween night.

□ **Adults should plan out a route in advance** and check it during the daylight for such obstacles as broken sidewalks, (or no sidewalks), construction timber, or other obstacles that could trip up trick or treaters. Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods or areas.

□ **Require well-fitting shoes** to be worn; preferably sneakers. While adorable in the store as a costume accessory, kids planning to go trick or treating should wear sturdy shoes and not the princess high-heels, too-large boots, or other types of shoes often shown with costumes. Save those types of shoes for costume parties and not when a child is going trick or treating. Their feet--and most likely you who may end up carrying either the shoes or the child--will be thankful.

□ **Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.** While cute initially, costumes that drag can trip up little feet, get caught on bushes, and create a tussle

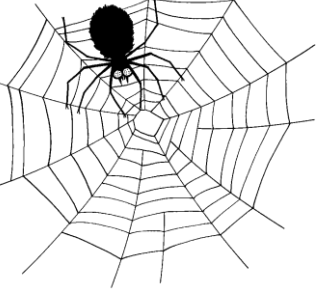
that sometimes results in the child wanting to remove the costume. Remember, kids who trick or treat want to be costumed AND comfortable.

□ With the thought of comfort, **pick costumes that are bathroom-friendly as well.** On this same subject, parents should pre-plan a bathroom stop along the way (a friends' house will do and is a good time for a water break as well), or at a public facility if driving.

□ **Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing.** Spiderman masks, for example, sometimes only have small eye slits and nothing for the nose or mouth. Parents should try on masks for size and not hesitate to cut out larger openings for a trick or treaters' comfort. If possible, find a mask that "breathes" and is easy to put on and off. The types of mask that easily can slide up on the head and then pulled down are best.

□ **Trick or treaters should walk**, not run, and should never cut across lawns or driveways. Obstacles could exist that aren't readily visible in the evening.

□ **Only carry flexible props**, such as knives, swords, ninja items, etc., that can't cause injury if a kid accidentally falls. No play prop should resemble the real item; and consider leaving play weapons at home and not part of trick or treat night. Remember, some individuals are offended by seeing small children carry these items; and trick or treating should be a fun and positive experience for everyone.



2007 Halloween Stats:

- 1.1 billion pounds of pumpkin production in 2007
- 36 million Trick or Treaters, ages 5 -13
- 1198 U.S. manufacturers produced chocolate candy in 2007.

☐ **Only trick or treat at houses that are lit.** Residents who do not wish to be bothered by trick or treaters often leave off their lights as a sign; respect their preference by only going to houses that are lit.

☐ **Be sure kids don't get overheated and keep hydrated.** Plan costumes according to weather; don't have your child dress in an adorable lions costume with heavy fur and hood if you live in Southern states where temperatures could still be in the 80s in the evening; by the same token, a fairy costume might be impractical for a cold northern evening. Be one of those creative parents who accessorizes jackets or thinks "cool comfort" for their kids.

☐ **Think "practical" over "cute" when picking a trick or treat goody bag or container.** Some of seemingly-fun ones sold in stores are heavy--before any treats are added; others are too long and will drag the ground or have sharp edges that could scrape against tender skin. One of the best and simplest suggestions is to have kids utilize a backpack to keep their hands free except for perhaps a flashlight.

☐ **Keep track of time and don't trick or treat after 9 p.m.** (general recommendation). That allows ample time for children to trick or treat, and by then, the excitement of the evening and the candy/treats means little ghouls will be tired.

Here are trick or treat tips for parents to ensure your little princess doesn't turn into a witch or your transformer into a "wail-wolf."

☐ **Feed your kids a healthy meal** prior to going trick or treat. Your children will be happier, and it will help reduce the temptation of kids wanting to devour candy from the first trick or treat stop.

☐ **Children of any age should be accompanied by a parent,** if possible. Tweens or young teens who still trick or treat may resist this notion; if they trick or treat without an adult, set firm rules and require a child to carry a cell phone that can be used in the event of an emergency. Older kids should know where they can go, what etiquette they must follow, safety rules, carry a flashlight or a lit device, and have an absolute deadline for returning home.

☐ **Purchased costumes should be made of flame-retardant material.** Costumes should also be reflective of the local weather. Some parents overdress their kids so that they sweat and are uncomfortable in costumes that are very heavy or don't "breathe." Others freeze in skimpy costumes or those made of thin material. Trick or treating is for children; comfort and safety should come before a parent's reluctance to have a child wear a coat over a costume.

☐ **Insist that your child goes to the bathroom BEFORE leaving the house.** And, be considerate of your child's bathroom needs by not choosing a costume that is difficult to get on and off in time to avoid last-minute bathroom needs, if at all possible.

☐ **Never allow children to eat candy before it is inspected.** Any opened candy should be thrown away, and unless you personally know the families who make homemade goodies, it is recommended that you dispose of homemade treats. Immediately toss any items that are suspect in any way, and get rid of (either through donation or throwing away) any treats that your kid doesn't like. Some parents also put away some candy and save for later or set rules allowing kids to eat all they want for a designated period, then dispose of the rest.



Key Holder Responsibilities

Officer A. Brooks



Officer A. Brooks has over 15 years in civilian law enforcement and 12.5 years in the military.

Often we allow someone to maintain a key to our home in case of emergencies. Maybe just as a safety precaution while we are on vacation, at work, or if we simply misplace our key. What a great idea! We may also consider placing them on our alarm notification list. Truly there is no substitute for a good neighbor. However, there should be guidelines established when the key is provided, they should know their limitations.

Recently the Dunwoody Police Department was dispatched to an alarm at a residence. Upon the officer's arrival he met a neighbor in the front yard. He was notified by that neighbor that another neighbor had entered the residence after being notified by the alarm company. A short time later an elderly man, carrying a walking cane, and a young teenage boy emerged from the home. When the officer asked why he entered the residence he replied "I was mad and I was going to beat the h--- out of them." **Thankfully this was a false alarm.**

This is wrong for so many reasons other than the obvious. The officers of the Dunwoody Police Department are all veterans and all have experience with dealing with burglars. Any one of them could probably tell you of a bad encounter. Therefore, we would like to share three main reasons why you should never do this.

First: Responding officers are always thinking "officer safety". They are trained to expect the worst in any given situation and prepare for the challenge. If the arriving officer would have encountered the neighbors coming from the residence, they would probably have placed them in an uncomfortable situation until the home owners could have been notified and cleared them satisfactorily. This often means the home owner appearing in person. Imagine if they are away on vacation!

Second: If the neighbor had entered the residence and encountered a burglar,

physically attacking them can place the neighbor in a position to face criminal charges of assault and battery. Although the burglar is in the residence illegally, they posed no threat to the neighbor. By entering the residence, the neighbor placed them self in a position for an encounter, which in many cases makes them the aggressor. Think for a moment if you will, what will happen if the burglar decides to defend themselves and has better fighting tactics and physical ability than you. You could be the one who's hurt. Remember any animal backed into a corner **will** come out fighting.

Third: Remember the person in the house has the element of surprise. They know where you are coming from, while you have to guess about their location. This can work to their advantage, please consider **they probably will be armed.**

So what should you do?

That's simple. You are the eyes of the Police until they arrive. Upon being notified by the alarm company, you should take a position where you have the best view of your neighbor's home without exposing yourself, or placing yourself in harm's way. If possible contact a neighbor on the other side so you can maintain a 360 degree view. Make note of anyone leaving the residence (i.e. number of people, clothing description, their race, sex and type of vehicle if there is one). Note the direction in which they travel and relay this information as soon as possible to a 911 operator.

Upon the arrival of the Police, wait until they have completed their initial check of the residence before you approach them. If you desire, and at the homeowners request, they will be happy to check the inside of the residence if there are no signs of forced entry on the outside.

We commend your State Farm attitude and say play it safe, so like a good neighbor, you can "**Always be there.**"



Code Enforcement

Code Compliance Official T. LaPenna

We have received numerous calls about code compliance issues. The City of Dunwoody Code Compliance Officer, Tom LaPenna, has forwarded me a list of the most common code violations in our city. This may also help to educate everyone about what the officers look for and what is considered a code violation.

Only passenger cars, pick-up trucks or passenger vans may be parked in residential zones. These vehicles are to be parked in a garage or carport to the side or rear of the residence, or on a paved surface

To report a code compliance issue inside the City Limits of Dunwoody please call or email our Code Compliance Official, Tom LaPenna at:

678.382.6807 or

Tom.LaPenna@DunwoodyGA.gov

Please have available the following:

- Address or descriptive location of the compliance issue
- Description of the non-compliant activity
- Length of time you have been aware of the non-compliant activity
- Any information regarding previous compliance actions taken by the City of Dunwoody or DeKalb County



Commercial vehicle at residence

GRASS AND WEEDS, must be maintained below 10-inches in height

SIGNS, may not be erected or placed in the utility right of way, (10-foot area behind the curb), nor may they be placed on utility poles. Prohibited signs in the City of Dunwoody include: Portable Signs, Balloons, Streamers, and Air/Gas Filled Figures.

PARKING ON GRASS, is not allowed in the city. Parking is only allowed on a paved surface. (Gravel and patio blocks are not considered a paved surface)

JUNK VEHICLES, are any vehicles which are inoperable, or do not bear current tags. Junk vehicles may not be parked in residential zones.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS, may only be parked to the side or in the rear of the residence on a paved surface or within a carport or garage. They may not be parked in the front of the residence, even on a paved surface.

OUTSIDE STORAGE, is prohibited. All stored items must be kept in an enclosed area to include walls and a roof.

FENCES, may only be 4-foot high in the front yard, or 8-foot high in the side or rear yard.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES such as panel vans, school buses, or cargo vans or trucks may not be kept in residential zones.



Pool maintenance



Commercial vehicle parked on grass at residence



Vehicles parked on grass



Lawn maintenance